

METHOD OF PREVENTING MODIFICATION OF
SYNTHETIC OLIGONUCLEOTIDES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a method of preventing modification of a
5 synthetic oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide analog during removal of at least one β -
cyanoethyl protecting group from the oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide analog. The
method involves contacting the oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide analog with a basic
solution having at least one acrylonitrile scavenger, such as *t*-butylamine, at a sufficient
temperature and for a sufficient period of time to remove at least one β -cyanoethyl
10 protecting group. The present invention also relates to a method of producing a
synthetic oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide analog.

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